

BELGIAN CONGO - SOMALIA

Since the last briefing on the Belgian Congo and the Somali areas the situation has deteriorated there and has become more urgent as independence draws near.

- I. In the Belgian Congo the 11-25 May election campaign for 137-member House of Assembly was fairly orderly but no party won a majority. Present situation one of chaotic confusion as several leaders try to form coalition government from among 29 groups represented in legislature.
- A. Leading contender is Patrice Lumumba whose National Congolese Movement won a plurality with 35 seats. However, most of the other leaders as well as Brussels oppose him and have tried a "stop Lumumba campaign."
- B. Lumumba's rabble rousing actions have increased panic among white settlers and cast doubt on his capability to govern.
1. Critical of Belgium's tightened security policies, he has threatened violence and a government in exile if not given immediate control.
2. At least 20,000 whites are believed to have left during past few months with extra transport facilities booked solid through August.
- II. In East Africa Ethiopian-Somali tension rising as 1 July Somali independence and unification day--British Somaliland and Somalia--approaches.

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- A. Emperor antagonized delegation from British Somaliland protectorate by refusing to cede territory or grant them grazing privileges; threatened to stop tribal migration by force. Result: delegation now demands that new Somali state have no diplomatic relations with Ethiopia.
- B. Recently, Haile Selassie harrangued foreign diplomats against Somali union; has demanded border guarantee before Somalia admitted to UN. Issue may become heated at forthcoming meeting of Conference of Independent African States meeting in Addis Ababa on 14 June.
- C. Fear of Somali expansion underlies Ethiopian request of 11 May for more American military assistance.